

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

At the outset, the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in pending claim 7 is appreciated. By this paper, claims 1-6 and 8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 7 is amended into independent form. Entry of these amendments is requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as placing the application in condition for allowance and otherwise simplifying matters for appeal. Accordingly, the pending rejections are believed to be moot and this application is asserted to be in condition for allowance.

Several formal matters should be addressed by the USPTO. First, Applicant requests acknowledgement of their priority claim to the earlier filed Japanese application. Specifically, a Certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 2003-024320 was submitted to the USPTO by Applicant on March 16, 2004. According to the PAIR system, this document has in fact received by the USPTO and placed into this application file wrapper. Accordingly, Applicant requests acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document. If further action is required to perfect this claim to priority, please advise. Second, two Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs) were submitted by Applicant in November 2004 and June 2005. Applicant requests initialled copies of Form PTO-1449 have not been received to confirm consideration of the references submitted with these IDSs.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5260.

Dated: May 31, 2006

By:

Respectfully submitted,
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